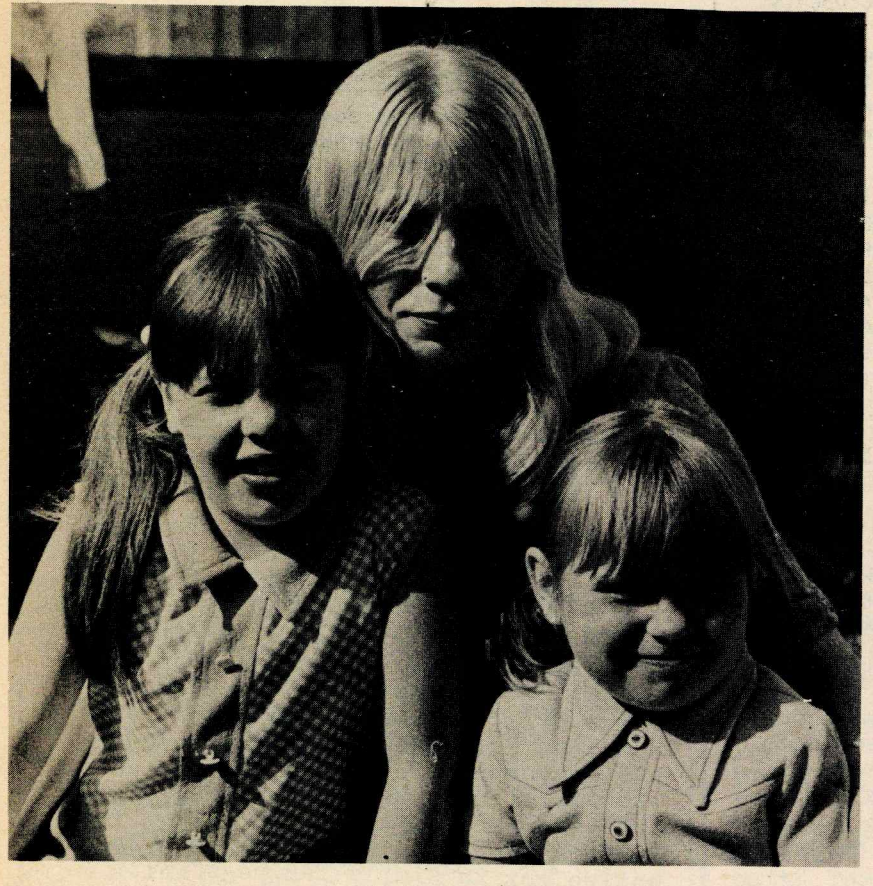
LONGSIGHT NEWS

No. 6 SEPT & OCT 75 .... 4p

UNEXPECTED GAS RISKS!



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The Connelly's - in Danger from Clorius Meters

We are told that Clorius Meters are perfectly safe. Yet the Clorius meter im the bedroom of 2 small children started a dangerous gas leak.

On Monday June 23rd Mrs Connelly of 3 Lucien Ave, Longsight, went to see why her 2 little girls were crying. In the bedroom she found the girls coughing and cho king for air. Mrs Connelly's first thought was to get the children out of the bedroom.

Even the little time it took to do that she found she could not hardly breathe and felt sick; the smell given off from the liquid in the Clorius meter was strong. Mrs Connelly says the children are frightened to sleep in the room even now. "I don't care who says those meters are safe, I want them out of my house."

NOTE: Clorius meters are perfectly safe for the investors in the Clorius Metering Company, as long as Manchester Corporation insist in putting them in the bedrooms of our children.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

113 HAMILTON RD.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Starting from September 2nd there will be a solicitor at the Advice Centre from 7 to 8 pm every Tuesday to give free legal advice.

TROUBLE IN HAMER TERRACE

Council opts out

"It has been decided to defer serving Notice of Entry immediately on areas where the start of rehousing will be delayed. If Notice of Entry is served immediately then the occupants of unfit houses would be able to live "rent free" until rehousing takes place. The Council would then be the effective landlord of the area with responsibility for the maintenance of all the houses in the area". (From a report to the Council, 20th September 1974).

The areas referred to where rehousing is to be delayed are ALL THE CLEARANCE AREAS WHERE THE LAND IS NOT REQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL FOR BUILDING NEW HOUSES. Hamer Terrace is one of these, and according to the same report clearance is not expected to be finished before October 1976 about a year later than the other areas CPO'd at the same time where the council wants the land.

Threatening letters

On March 3rd this year the Shaws received a notice from the Town Hall that they must repair their outside toilet and wall within 3 days. They 'phoned up to find out exactly what they had to do and Mr. Shaw did the work (repairing the roof and repointing over the door) that weekend.

They thought that was the end of the matter, But on April 22 they got another letter saying they must repair the building or they would be taken to court "without further notice". This time when they 'phoned up they were told to demolish the whole toilet and build a new one!

At this stage the Shaws called in at the Advice Centre. They were extremely worried by the threatening tone of the letter and were wondering how they would find the money. It seemed wrong to everybody that a house that should be coming down should have to be repaired at such great expense. At the Advice Centre the various possibilities were discussed: that the Town Hall should be asked to serve notice of entry early (as has happened with other houses in Longsight) and do the work themselves; or rehouse the family early and demolish the toilet. Then Mr. Shaw wrote a letter to the Town Clerk. It was never answered in writing but an inspector came round in June to have another look at the toilet. He said it was NOT necessary to demolish it, and told them what work he reckoned would make it safe. This work was done and again we thought this was the end of the matter, but then out of the blue came a summons to court. The next few days there was a flurry of 'phone calls to the relevant officers in the Town Hall complaining about how they kept changing their minds and keeping the Shaws in the dark about what was expected of them. They were asked to come up with a more reasonable solution and drop the summons. Finally on July 18th, five days before the court case was due, yet another inspector came and said it would be all right if they put in a wooden prop. This was done and the summons was dropped.

The moral is ....

Final word from the Town Hall person Advice Centre: "If they would only do a little to help themselves everything would be all right".

And the final word from Mrs. Shaw "You don't stand a cat-in-hells-chance on your own. But doing it together, thats how you win".

REPAIRS IN DEFERRED DEMOLITION AREAS

The Public Health Acts enable the council to FORCE landlords to do repairs. They apply to all landlord-owned houses in Hamer Terrace and Kinross Road/Laindon Road CPO's where notice of entry has been delayed till October. They also apply to ANY tenant in need of repairs whose landlord will not do them. We have some experience of these laws and how to set about getting satisfaction, so please call if you want more information.

HOUSING ACTION AREA

At last the town hall has declared the Improvement Area including the houses saved by a local residents action group at a Public Inquiry in Oct 74. They have decided to make a Housing Action Area which means the highest level of grants. The area is bounded by Hamilton Rd, Slade Lane, Dickenson Rd and Mentor St. People were notified of the decision by yet another legalistic note from Mr Boardman, who **thinks these letters should be written like a legal notice not** in simple language which non-solicitors can understand.

But maybe its as well that the letter is difficult to understand, since it was delivered to many people living in houses which are being demolished. A second leaflet which is even more legalistic states that anyone selling houses or giving notice to tenants must inform the town hall first. This will enable the town hall to make sure that the interests of the present residents are not injured as a result of these actions.

The government could still stop the Housing Action Area, but the town hall must be sure it won't, as they don't bother to tell the residents of this possibility.

360233 R1 AGT Manchester - Periodicals A-Z (A)

LONGSIGHT TENANTS

Longsight Tenants Association continue to fight the introduction of Clorius meters into their homes. A public meeting was called in April, and about 150 tenants attended. This was to voice dissatisfaction with the public meeting called previously by the Housing Dept as well as to agree a plan of action. As a result of this meeting a tenants association was formed and a decision was taken to do a survey which the Housing Director had already been instructed to carry out but had not done so.

LEAKS

Our own survey of 1500 tenants revealed that, quite apart from the problems with the meters, over 540 tenants had outstanding repairs of some kind - and ours is a new estate! These repairs included 350 leaks; approx 460 faulty radiators and apprx 400 draughty doors and windows and allied repairs.

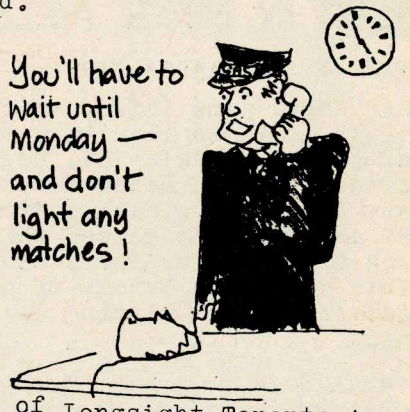
When we presented these findings to the Area Housing Manager we were told that because our survey could not be relied upon, a 10% sample survey would be done to verify its accuracy. Very few of the these repairs have yet been done nor has our survey been acted upon.

HOT AIR

On June 9th the Housing Committee was informed that the tenants in Longsight have grasped the essential principle that"the meters are to helpthem conserve heat and save money" and that "their initial apprehensions have been allayed" This, of course, was totally untrue so we decided to petition the housing committee.

Over 1000 tenants out of 1500 stated that they were totally opposed to the forcible introduction of metering and disgusted with the 80%-plus increase in heating charges.

We have learned that whena group is trying to alter official council policy it takes much determination and organization to succeed.



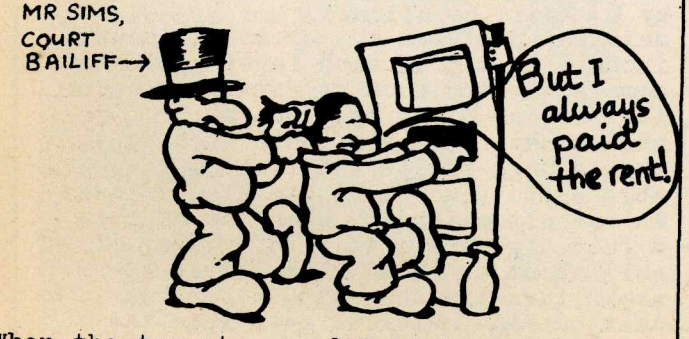
Secretary of Longsight Tenants Association is Dave Ryder, 10 Langport Ave.

DES SIGNS

Des Bennet from Albert Place, has signed as a semi professional footballer for Northern Premier League Team Netherfield. Des played for Blackburn Rovers as a youth.

EVICTION ON DUNCAN RD.

A tenant who had faithfully paid his rent was evicted recently from a house in Duncan Rd. The mortgage company, Cedar Holdings Ltd had repossessed the house from the landlord, Mr Tweedy then of 3 Norburn Rd, on the grounds that he had not paid the mortgage repayments. Last ditch attempts to get the eviction stopped were thwarted by the Court Bailiff's office who gave wrong information to a solicitor acting on behalf of a tenant. The bailiff's office said the house belonged to the Corporation, so the solicitor was making enquiries at the town hall, while agents Gerald Verber of Whitefield brought in the bailiff on behalf of Cedar Holdings.



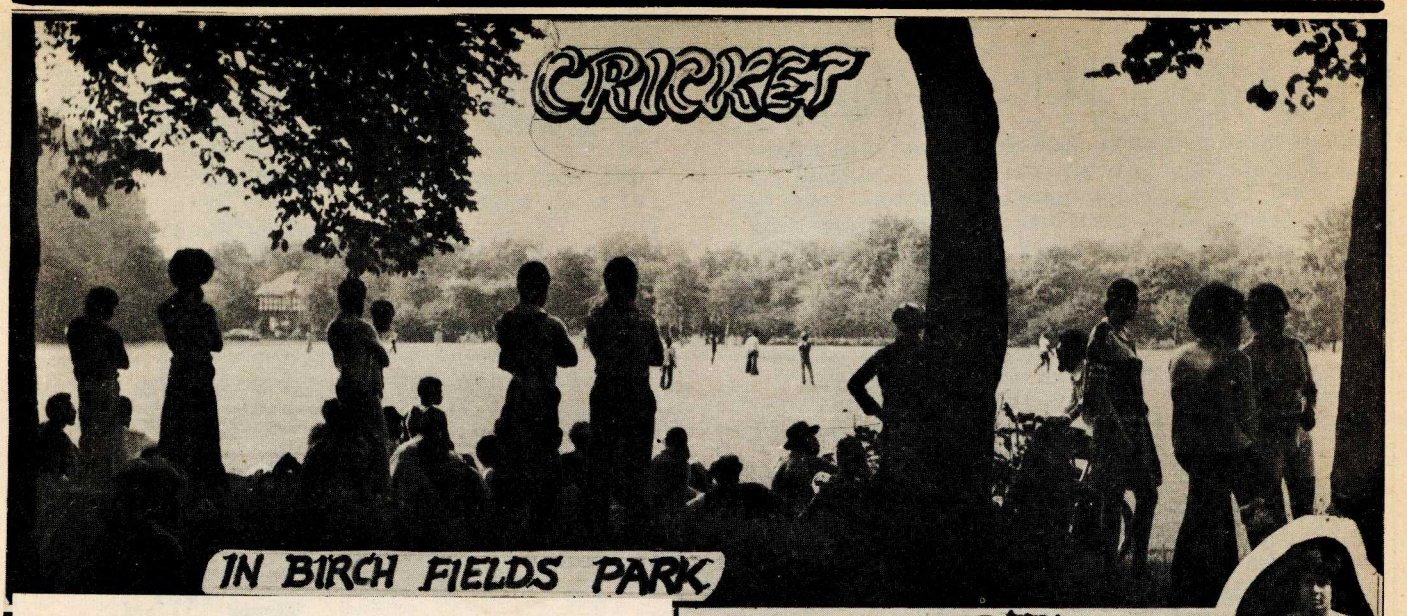
When the tenant was advised he would be evicted he felt it was the landlord's job to do something about it, seeing that he himself had been paying his rent regularly. But in cases like this a tenant is better advised to fight himself so that all his circumstances come to the notice of the court. His circumstances never did and he was evicted.

Cedar Holdings has been in the news many times with reports of various shady deals and when the company came near to bankruptcy the major shareholders, the National Coal Board Pension Fund, the Electricity Supply Council, Unilever Pension Fund and Eagle Star Assurance brought in Barclays Bank to "wind down" the firm. Barclays promised to put an end to the shady methods, but this eviction and a similar attempt in Leeds reported in the Guardian show that they have no sympathy for people who find themselves liable to eviction through no fault of their own.

DEMOLITION ORDERS FOR NORTHMOOR ROAD

The first 3 houses on the corner of Northmoor Road and Stanley Grove received demolition orders which caused a great deal of concern locally wondering what was planned for this area. One of the people who received notification 'phoned the Manchester Corporation at the Town Hall. Apparently the demolition is planned for NORTH ROAD CLAYTON not Northmoor Road (previously known as North Road) Longsight. The same sort of mistake has occurred concerning Mackenzie Street.

Does the Town Hall Planning Section know exactly what, or where, they are supposed to be re-constructing or demolishing?



LONGSIGHT V. ALEXANDRA PARK

In their third game this summer Longsight lost again to Alec Park making 13 all out to Alec Park's 151. Regent made 40 for the winners. Rebel made 25 and took six Longsight wickets. Ricky made 31 not out. The games, which take place in Birch Fields Park, Alexandra Par and other venues on Sunday afternoons, are exuberant, hard-hitting and entertaining.

The Longsight team in the 3rd game were Riaz, Hannaway, Amjid, Seymour, Charlton John, Bar, Nat, Junior, Lesley and Bancroft.

BACKYARD GARDENING

VEGETABLES

Apart from weeding and watering, the main tasks for September and October are harvesting the last vegetables of the season. Cabbage and lettuce are ready when there is a good firm heart and peas when the pods are firm and well filled but not too big otherwise the peas inside will be as hard as bullets. Peas will be finished by the end of September. Any remaining onions should be lifted now. Runner beans should be picked when young otherwise they get tough and stringy. Also if they are picked often they will keep producing more. Tomatoes should be watered daily and any side shoots removed. The fruit is ripe when an even red but not soft. At the end of September it is an idea to remove any small under-developed fruit so that the larger fruits develop fully. The plant will be finished towards the end of October.

HERBS

This is the time for cutting and drying herbs. About the third week in September, or when the first flowers open, cut parsley, mint, rosemary, sage and other herbs and hang up to dry in bunches with a paper bag around to keep off the dust. When the herbs are dried crisp they are shredded up using a mincer or sharp knife and stored in screw-topped jars. Fresh mint can be stored in vimegar for making mint sauce through the winter as needed. Remember that parsley sown this year lasts till next year and some can be dug up and replanted in 5 inch pots and brought inside for winter use. Any old large leaves should be cut off to encourage new leaves. Other herbs sown this year should be transplanted to a foot apart.

COMPOST

October is a good month to start a compost heap. There's not much else to do and the pea and bean plants will be finishing and can be used for compost material along with any other vegetable waste and leaves apart from potato plants which should be burnt to kill diseases. A shaded place about 4 feet by 6 should be allowed, and compost material put down in layers of about 6 inches. On top of each layer sprinkle some activator such as Fertosan powder, Alginure or other type bought from a garden shop. Kitchen waste such as tea-leaves, egg shells and fruit and vegetable waste (uncooked) can also be used as compost material. When the heap is 4 feet high cover it with a layer of soil about an inch thick. After 12 weeks turn the heap with a fork so that outside material goes into the middle. The compost is ready when it is a rich, dark brown colour.

Traffic RUMBLES on:

1975 census report

Traffic is still a nuisance on Hamilton Rd and the side streets off it. Commuters from outside Longsight use these roads to avoid lights at Dickenson Rd and Slade Lane. Such drivers are a hazard to schoolchildren in the morning and to everyone in the afternoon. The slaughter of animals continues.

Residents again carried out a traffic count this year (on the 3rd Tuesday in July, as last year). The results show that cars and lorries on Hamilton Rd are at the same level as last year. The new traffic lights at the Slade Lane end of Hamilton Rd are now being switched on. The Town Hall engineers think that these are the answer to all the traffic hazards around Hamilton Rd. It remains to be seen if they will be as good as the roadblocks carried out by residents with dustbins and signs on Palm St. Duncan Rd and Clitheroe Rd last year. It is due to these roadblocks and the publicity they got that traffic on those three sidestreets has fallen - as the results below show.

NO. OF CARS AND LORRIES FROM 4.30 - 6.30pm.

Hamilton Rd

Going towards Kingsway
in 1973.....525
in 1974.....495
in 1975.....527

Going towards Manchester
in 1973.....179
in 1974.....248
in 1975.....226

Palm St

non local vehicles
in 1973.....18
in 1975.....14

Duncan Rd

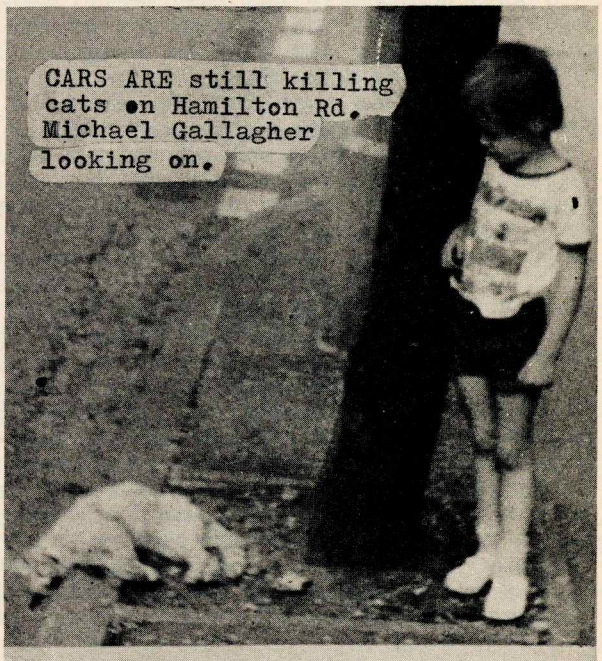
non local vehicles
in 1973.....90
in 1974.....51
in 1975.....39

Clitheroe Rd

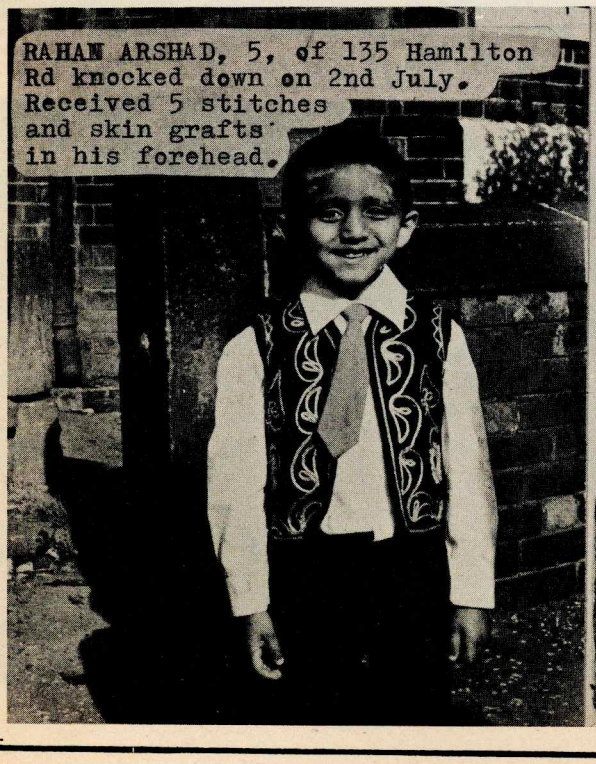
non-local vehicles
in 1973.....63
in 1974.....38
in 1975.....29

Slade Grove
in 1973.....50
in 1975.....32

The town hall was also seen making a traffic count this summer.



CARS ARE still killing cats on Hamilton Rd. Michael Gallagher looking on.



RAHAN ARSHAD, 5, of 135 Hamilton Rd knocked down on 2nd July. Received 5 stitches and skin grafts in his forehead.

THIS PARALYSED DOG was playing with two others when they rushed out of Palm St into the early morning line of cars on Hamilton Rd. It got battered and driven over and dragged into the gutter.

SOMETHING

THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS COME ROUND AND PEOPLES ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE CHILDREN ONCE AGAIN. FUNDS AND FACILITIES ARE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE COUNCIL AND A LOT OF EFFORT AND IMAGINATION IS PUT INTO PROVIDING ACTIVITIES. WHETHER THE PROVISION IS ADEQUATE IS OPEN TO QUESTION. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT IT IS MUCH GREATER THAN DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR. THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS END, THE KIDS ARE STILL AROUND, STILL WANTING ATTENTION AND NEW EXPERIENCES BUT THE COUNCIL IS GRUDGING IN PUTTING RIGHT THE BAD EFFECTS OF ITS PLANNING POLICIES AND RESPONDING TO CHILDRENS NEEDS.

BALLOON ("INFLATABLE") ON CROFT BEHIND

HAMILTON RD ADVENTURE SCHEME was for children from 5 to 12 years and was run by Kath, Margaret, Yvonne, Frances, Kim, Patricia, Zara, Ann and Jean, helped by 3 parents. This centre was only backed by a grant from social services (thanks to Andy Wiggans), but even so it was well organized and downstairs in the basement there was no lack of games for the children, including slides for the young ones and construction kits for the more enterprising. There was also an art section covering painting and modelling with clay, and I was interested and impressed by the large number of children showing strong enthusiasm to "have a go". There was no lack of refreshment either and the children recharged their batteries with fruit juice and biscuits. Hats off again to another happy and generous group of volunteers donating their time and energies to the children's safety and well being. It only cost 5p and that was used to buy more games, biscuits and drinks for the children. There were outings to Manchester Museum, Peterloo Gallery, Southport, Blackpool (Family Outing), Salford Museum, Castleton, Styal, Chester Zoo; and there was a party and fancy dress for the kids in College Chapel.

THE LONGSIGHT LIBRARY SUMMER PLAYSCHEME got off to a good start at 10am. on Wed July 30th. During the morning session 21 children went to Crowcroft Park to play games and in the afternoon, approx 40 children played outside the library on the inflatablesor played games and made things out of plasticene inside. At the end of the day the general feeling was that everyone had had a good time - apart, that is, from some of the residentsin the houses at the rear of the library, who did complain about the noise. It was open to all children of 12 and under, unfortunately this was confined to Wednesdays only due to lack of staff. The eight volunteers consisted of students, local mums and library assistants, one of whom is Mrs Pat Coleman the organizer. They also had a grant from Social Services (Mr Andy Wiggans again!!) which was used to take the children on trips to Castleton, Lyme Park, museums and mines etc

FOR THE KIDS

CAMPING

We went camping with students. There were 3 students and 13 kids. We all set off at 3-o'clock and didn't get there till 6-30 when we arrived. We got the tents up in Conway, there were lots of caravan and tents. Nearly all the caravans have television. We should have stayed in Conway for a week, but on Sunday we had trouble with the boys. I moved out and slept in my friends caravan. There was shouting and a fellow next to our tent told them to stop shouting. The next day the man reported us to the manager in the morning. My friend was asleep. Suddenly the manager thrown a bag at her to wake-up, she wasn't awake properly, she swore at him, and fell asleep. She woke up again and he thrown another bag at her. She woke up in a fright and said What, the manager said to her Get out and leave. She said What have I done? All he said was Get out and leave. She told us all when we got up and he said to the studentsI heard all about you swearing and bad behaviour, he warned us, so he said I will give you four minutes. We all sat down didn't move. He came back and said What did I say? He took our tents down and there were no more questions.

Margaret, student of Clitheroe Rd asked him, could we stay till tomorrow. He said No, so Margaret went mad at him, then Alix at Hamilton Rd asked him. He said tell her to apologize and she went up and then he said I want all of you off tomorrow morning.

So the next day it was Monday, we got everything ready and went to a field called Penmaenmawr. We enjoyed ourselves there. We had friends, played out late, went out every night to the clubs. I liked Penmaenmawr it was better than Conway. We had a beach near us. We went every afternoon to swim and we used to come back at 4-30 for our dinner. On Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday we went climbing up the rocks, on Friday we set off home. We were over 100 miles from Manchester

LONGSIGHT ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

In planning the new estates from Ardwick to Longsight public hall, the corporation have omitted such essentials as youth clubs, old peoples clubs, park lands or play areas and the adventure playground on Plymouth Grove West is an example of a community project "making amends" (with Recreational Services funds) for bad planning policy.

Longsight Adventure Playground was set up as a continuation of a succesful playscheme in the area, as part of the answer to a dire need for facilities for kids. It is designed to provide children with the room to play, build, dig and enjoy themselves as much and as safely as possible. There are play-leaders on hand, helping to create the kids world for them and ensuring the upkeep of the play-area.

If you've time to spare, part-time voluntary help would be appreciated.

CROWCROFT PARK SCHOOL PLAYCENTRE was organized by Mr Welling from Spurley Hey school's adult centre. Open from 10am until 3.30pm and very well planned. M/c Education Committee had not held back on their spending this year and had provided 2 buses and a mini coach for trips to Blackpool, Southport, local caves and many more interesting places. In my opinion it was extremely well done - catering for 200/250 children is quite a job and a vote of thanks should go to Mr Welling and his staff who gave up 3 weeks of their holidays to ensure not just the childrens fun but also their safety. This could have been extended had some of the parents got together and given a helping hand

NEW PLAYCENTRE.

A playcentre starts up at Stanley Grove school on 10th September for 3 nights each week, Mon Wed and Fri, for children aged 5 - 11. Hours are 5.30 until 7.00pm. One of the teachers, Mr Cassidy, is in charge and is organizing a variety of games and sports.

WE NEED SPACE

St John's C. of E. school,Mitre Rd, are in urgent need of more space for the children to play in, and have sent a petition from the parents of the children attending the school, to the town hall asking for the education dept to acquire the waste ground which is not been used at the side of the school to be extended to additional play space.

PLAYGROUND FOR ANSON TENANTS?

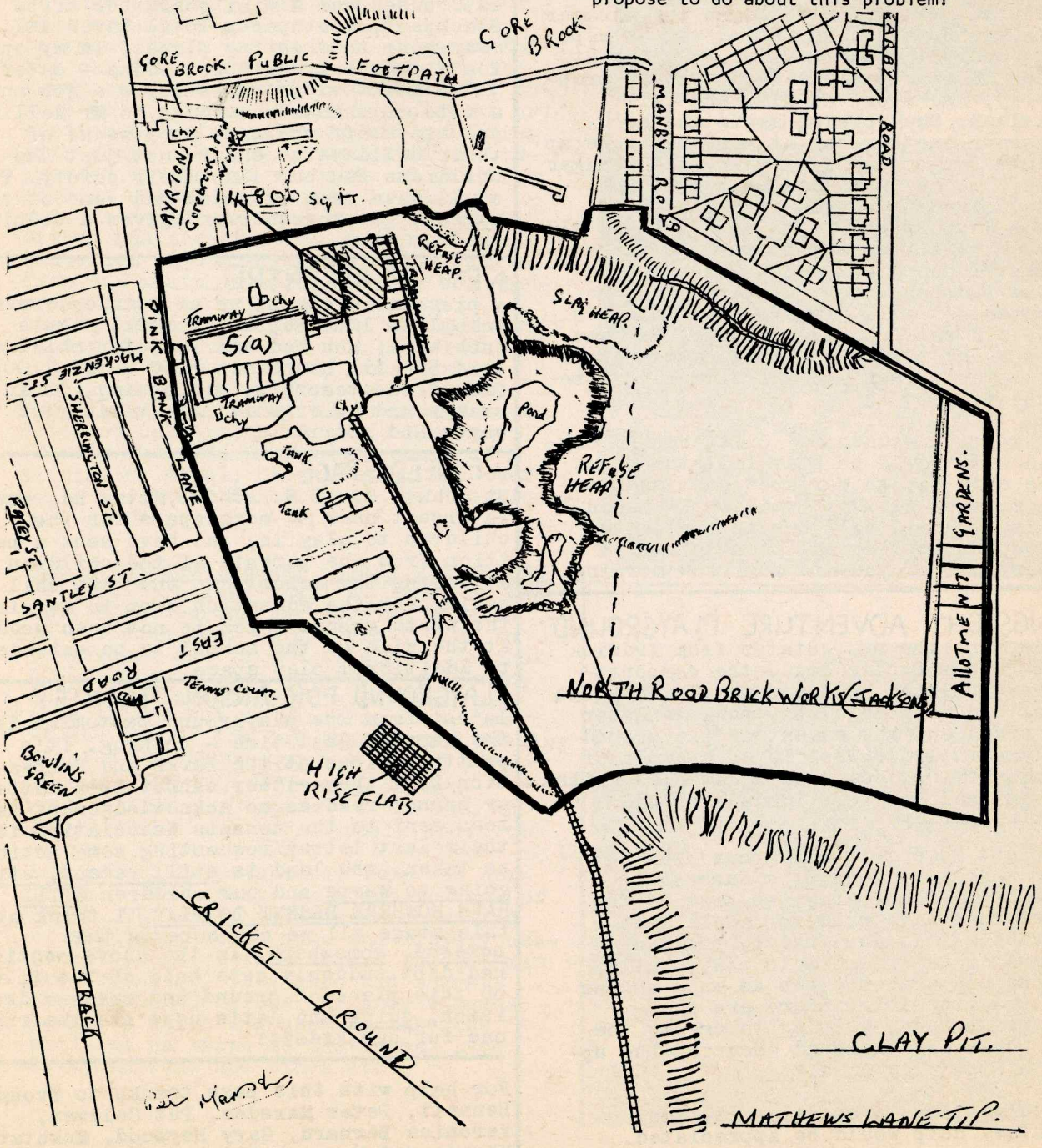
Latest from the playground pantomime is the same as last time - nothing. It's pretty obvious at the Parks and Recreation Dept they either cannot open letters or cannot read as no acknowledgement has been sent to the tenants association for their last letter requesting some action be taken, the land is still vacant, still going to waste and our children STILL HAVE NOWHERE DECENT TO PLAY. I think at this stage all we can hope is that someone, somewhere, in the above mentioned dept suddenly gets hold of the file on this piece of ground and makes a decision, quick and let's hope its the right one for our kids?!!

For help with this page thanks to Yvonne Bennett, Peter Marsden, Pat Coleman, Veronica Bernard, Gary Heywood, Mukhtar Khares and Maureen Thierens.

JACKSONS BRICKWORKS

Referring to our last edition on the above property, we followed up various lines of investigation and discovered that residents in Pink Bank Lane only had received a notification from the Town Hall Planning Department. BUT this is a matter that concerns more than the residents of Pink Bank Lane. There are several streets of ratepayers who wish to see some form of recreation ground for the children allotted from this space.

A spokesman for Jackson's denied that Christian Salvesans had bought the land. Quote "Jacksons and Salvesons are in partnership and for further information contact the Town Hall". A spokesman at the Town Hall said Jacksons own the land but Salvesons have bought the buildings, and are considering buying the land, which is useless for the Town Planning Dept. Quote "you cannot build houses at the bottom of a clay pit". From information given I conclude that this may progress in to being part industrial, and part housing, together with some playing fields, moving round the Mathews Lane area towards Stockport. Residents on Pink Bank Lane had contacted the local M.P., Mr. Gerald Kaufman, who discovered that only 14,800 sq. ft. has been earmarked for light industrial buildings. What is really happening? Quite a few people seem to know but are not commenting. Another item concerning Jackson's is the demolition of the Kilns and the exposure of risks of crickets - these are now beginning to infest the homes on Pink Bank Lane. What does the Town Hall propose to do about this problem?



FIGHT COUNCIL AXE THE MINIMAX

When working people refused to pay 25p on the 53 instead of the usual 10p, the morning fares went up on 4th August, it made the headlines in the local papers. The pity is that everybody didn't refuse to pay. What lies behind the murder of the minimax fares? And what can you do to stop the managers of the buses bumping up the fares again?

In December the Labour Government told councils "Make your buses pay their way, cut down on the amount the rates support them." The Greater Manchester Council was one of the few councils in the country to follow this order. Other councils believe that its alright if buses run at a loss, this should be paid for out of the rates.

THE VANISHING PASSENGERS

Greater Manchester Transport (which runs the buses for the Council) abandoned its belief in keeping fare increases in line with the cost of living and pushed up fares in February (which caused them to lose one in every 14 passengers) and in August (which they expected to lose them 1 in every 10 passengers).
Surprisingly, Manchester is the area where the amount taken from the rates to help pay for the buses is lowest in the North-West.

CAR DRIVERS ARE SUBSIDISED

Car owners get subsidies from the rates. This year the County Council will spend almost as much to subsidise roads (£26 million) as it spends for buses and trains (£29 million). WHY must the poorer sections who don't own cars have to pay more and more for buses and trains without help from the rates and at the same time pay in their rates for road-building and road maintenance mostly for the benefit of car owners?

Stuart Medlock of the busworkers' union (TGWU) said: "The lads here are completely against fare increases and against fewer bus services - which is coming. It's a disastrous policy. The number of passengers will fall, less buses will be needed and it will eventually mean less work to go round.. As you know they're not replacing workers who leave, at the same rate as before".

Di Ward speaking for the bus company said that the No. 53 with its fixed fare was an "out of date anomaly" (i.e. a freak) and said it was "illogical". BUT that's nonsense. A Mr Rodgers also speaking for the company said the 53 wasn't paying its way altho the loss wasn't great. WHY THEN, didn't they increase the level rate 10p by a little instead of raising fares as high as 25p (and 35p on the No.54) ? The 53 is now making so much money that drivers have taken over £70 on a Saturday turn.

People using Nos.53,54 complained at the fare inceases but paid up.
One early morning traveller said: "We have got to get to work, haven't we? we can't stop using buses". Drivers report that the numbers of passengers haven't fallen much. Have the public no answer to more fare increases?

THE HEIDELBERG WAY

In Heidelberg, Germany bus fares were increased sharply in 1971. Passengers simply walked off the buses and stayed off for weeks. Car drivers who were willing to give a free lift during the boycott carried a coloured spot on their windscreens. The bus company gave in and reduced the fares again.

BUS TO THE MARKET

The No.85 bus (along Wilbraham Rd) is being extended to Longsight market during non-rush-hour periods. In rush hours it runs to Albert Square. Passengers complain et present at the long waits for an 85 along Wilbraham Rd. That certainly needs to be improved.

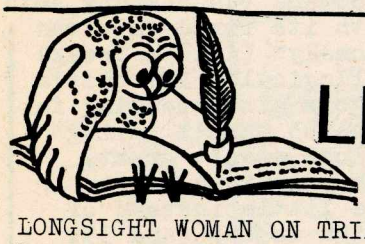
by Maggie Walker & Mike Brennan

A very successful concert was put on for the entertainment of the Tenants Association at our June meeting. The show, costumes, music etc were all the work of a group of local young people whose ages ranged from 8 - 16. They decided during the Easter holidays they would do something and the show was staged to a packed hall at Easter and by popular demand they agreed to do it for the tenants association. Items included musical numbers, dancing, sketches, panto, and "Elzena the Wonder Horse", altogether a very entertaining evening with many thanks to Carol and friends. Later in the week after the concert the tenants association gave the cast of the show a fish and chip supper and we had a very social evening and we must thank Mr and Mrs Godsall of the Beresford Rd "chippy" for their generosity.

People are still continuing to pick up their homes and trying to start over again after the modernization which is now almost complete except for the Bexhill Drive/Stamford Rd area, and the latest rumour has it that they will not now be started until the end of 76 or early 77? Latest streams of complaints are from the Craston Rd end of the estate, people are getting bogged down on their own pathways due to the sun melting them, complaints are that little or no shale was put with the tar, so consequently people are getting in a mess; lady at no. 10 cannot go out in her new wheelchair as the wheels are caked in tar etc. Complaints have been made to the powers that be but despite spraying with water the problem still persists.

The playgroup is still very active, and we repeat a request for small tricycles, prams, anything pushable which are no longer in use, they would be put to a very good use at the playgroup.

Maureen Thierens



LETTERS

LONGSIGHT WOMAN ON TRIAL

Dear Longsight News,

There are some people who believe that wars would cease if people refused to fight. They believe it is not the high-ranking officers who end up foot-patrolling the streets in N. Ireland, but young, unemployed lads from Longsight, Moss Side, Rusholme who have got fed up walking these noisy stinking streets and gone into the army for a job! Work conditions must be the worst in the country. You can't form a trades union, give in your notice when you want to, refuse to go to N. Ireland even if you believe the army's job there is harmful, or go absent without leave, without being punished like at school. Overtime is compulsory and you get £2 a week extra for risking your life in N. Ireland.

The Guardian Says that 27 soldiers are deserting every week.

Many more are discontented but are afraid to desert because you have to live without insurance cards etc.

A group of people in the London area who do not believe in armies handed out leaflets to soldiers informing them that if they had already decided to leave the army they should know the risks and chances involved. For this the leafletters are on trial for supposedly conspiring to incite soldiers to desert. The worst they can get is life imprisonment. That's the army for you.

Late last year a protest against this denial of the right to talk with soldiers was organized. You signed a statement saying you disagreed with these peoples arrest and you had one of the leaflets and were prepared to give it to soldiers. All these statements will be handed in to the Home Secretary.

Alix Otten who lives on Hamilton Rd agreed to her name and address being used to collect the protest-statements (although it was not her idea). For this she has been charged with inciting people to incite soldiers to desert. She will be in the Magistrates Court, Crown Square on Sept 23rd and her trial by jury will take place some months later. She can get a maximum of life imprison ment

Local people could support Alix by
(i) coming down to Crown Square (9.45am) the mornings she is in court
(ii) raising money in case she doesnt get legal aid (she is defending herself) or by coming to the fund-raising social Sept 19th, Students Union, Oxford Rd.
(iii) proposing a motion in your union branch meeting deploring the denial of the right of conversation between soldiers and civilians.
(iv) by signing one of the protest-statements.
(v) wishing her well

You can write to her for more information c/o Longsight News, 113 Hamilton Rd M/c 13.

Yours,
Gay Jones
75 Heald Place.

CHESS

The recently concluded British Championships at Morecambe possess a special interest for Longsight chess players. The championship was finally won by W R Hartston with 8 points who thus regains the title he lost last year. Second place was shared by 4 players with 7 points; A J Miles world junior champion, Max Fuller the Australian professional, Simon Webb and Louis De Veauce. Chief interest for Longsight is the last named player.

De Veauce lives at 23 Slade Lane Longsight! Age 26, he first came into prominence in 1968 by winning the under-21 British Champs. Last year he played in the Major Open Tourney which qualified him for this years champs touring home easily having established a lead which could not be beaten with 2 rounds to go. His score of 9 wins and 2 draws was one that has rarely if ever been surpassed in that strong tournament. He thus confirmed that form with his best ever in the British this year. Some indication of how near he came to winning the crown may be indicated by the fact that in the key game with Hartston he established a very powerful commanding position. In fact Hartston somewhat hopefully offered him a draw which Louis quite correctly refused to accept. It is a tragedy that, by a positional error later in the game he threw away an easy victory, a loss which converted a convincing first to a shared second place. But that's chess! Better luck next time, Louis!

Jack Wolstenholme

Recipe corner

SUGAR MICE

2 tablespoons condensed milk
10 oz icing sugar
½ oz butter
3 drops vanilla essence
(And if you like, raspberry essence and cochineal)

Mix condensed milk, icing sugar and butter together in a bowl. Knead with hands until smooth, and divide the mixture into two.

Flavour one part with vanilla. Colour the other part pink and flavour it with raspberry. Shape into mouse shape, some pink mice and some white ones.

Make tail with a little piece of string and eyes with currants or silver balls.

You can also make peppermint creams with this recipe. Use peppermint essence, roll dough out and cut into shapes with a knife or fancy cutters.

RESIDENTS GROUPS &c.

ANSON TENANTS ASSOCIATION c/o Maureen Thierens, 26 Elsdon Ave 225 9546

BIRCH LANE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (for all the streets between St Johns Rd and Laindon Rd. Anne Barnaby, 72 Birch Lane 225 9287

MELDRETH DRIVE RESIDENTS c/o Jim Mortimer, 10 Meldreth Drive 224 7186

LONGSIGHT TENANTS ASSOCIATION (New estate). Dave Ryder, 10 Langport Ave

LONGSIGHT LIBRARY CHILDRENS GROUP, Pat Coleman, Longsight Library

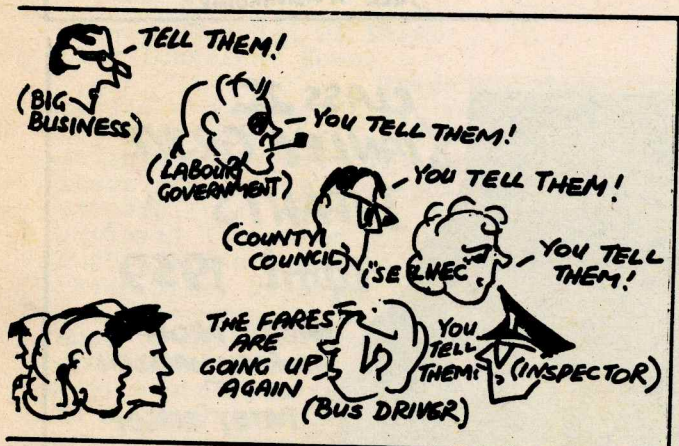
LONGSIGHT ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, Ann Porter, 26 Lucien Close 273 3171 and Gary Heywood, 1 Fenella St. (Playleader)

HAMILTON RD AREA TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP, c/o Dot Graham, 181 Hamilton Rd.

CENTRAL WOMEN'S GROUP, Jill Woodward, 4 Leedale St, Levenshulme.

HAMILTON RD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE. Advice office open 10 - 12.30 Mon Wed & Fri and 3 -8 Tues & Thurs. Also good quality clothes and furniture. Rooms available for meetings. 113 Hamilton Rd 248 6640

SOUTH M/C SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, Lilian Fairley 28 Willesden Ave 224 3502



LONGSIGHT SHOPPING CENTRE

Shopkeepers and residents of Longsight and Levenshume interested in the kind of shops & buildings going into the new district centre at Stanley Grove - Stockport Rd and want to meet people planning 2 public meetings, contact Julia or Mike c/o Neighbourhood Centre, 113 Hamilton Rd; (248-6640).

HAVE LONGSIGHT NEWS DELIVERED REGULARLY 20p for 5 issues
Fill in coupon and return with 20p to Longsight News, 113 Hamilton Road.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you know an adult who cannot read or write very well, tell them that there is a way in which they can learn. The people who do the teaching are ordinary people who volunteer for the work and are unpaid. They are not qualified teachers. They have only one pupil each and lessons are arranged at a time and place which suits both the pupil and the teacher. Pupils and teachers are matched, as far as possible, according to age, interests etc.

If anyone would like more information they should contact Pat Coleman at Levenshulme Library ('phone 224 2775) or hand in their name, address and 'phone number (if they have one) to any member of staff at Longsight Library and ask if Pat would contact them.

LONGSIGHT & MOSS SIDE COMMUNITY PROJECT. Help & advice for people from India & Pakistan. 4a Anson Rd, church buildings. 225 8583

WEST INDIAN ADVICE OFFICE, Stamford Rd. Run by West Indians, open to all

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"CHAPTER 1 ENTERPRISES" Disco Unit,

Pop - Soul - Bop - Rock - Heavy. £10
For further details contact Nigel Gibson, 6 Reynell Rd

CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

ACTION FOR SINGLE PARENTS - As part of its campaign to help one-parent families, CPAG has drawn up a questionnaire covering Income; Day Care; and Housing.
INCOME: 42% of single parents are wholly dependant on supplementary benefit, and one aim of this survey is to see if those in the Manchester area are getting a fair deal for clothing, heating, etc. Manchester has the lowest success rate in the country for appeals against supplementary benefit decisions - a meagre 13%
HOUSING: Most single parent families arise from marital breakdown and housing departments vary how they treat these families. Some require the mother to pay rent arrears left by the husband, and more evidence is needed on these practises.
DAY CARE: Many single parents would like to go to work but day care provision is often inadequate. Lack of facilities after school hours and in school holidays can force the parent to give up their job. What suggestions can be made to improve the situation?

Questionnaire available from 20 Ivygreen Rd, M/c 20 or from 113 Hamilton Rd. Replies are treated in strict confidence and the final report on 1-parent families in M/c will not identify anybody.

Published by Longsight News, 113 Hamilton Rd.
Printed by Evans of the Kinder Press, New Mills.